

Abstract

The Master's thesis *Iranian opposition and blogging – the phenomenon of Citizen journalism in a non-free society* is focused on analysis of blogging as an opposition's communication tool within the nondemocratic regimes, contemporary Iran in particular. The research question is How can be the opposition's communication performed by blogging and what are the limitations and possibilities of such communication. The primary hypothesis is that the blogs are not used for direct management of opposition's actions, but rather as an alternative space for free expression. Four opposition's blogs written in english are analysed by means of qualitative analysis. The main criteria for selection of blogs were that the blog should be actualised on regular basis, based in Iran or at least written by a native Iranian, and clearly be in favour of the opposition's ideology. Content published between march 2009 and march 2010 was selected for analysis, for it was the period of disputed presidential election and following citizen's unrest in Iran. The issues of media's effects are not discussed in the thesis. Aside of the analysis, certain theoretical models of communication and their potential use within Iran's blogosphere are discussed. The analysis finally confirms that the bloggers have a potential to become opinion leaders, as defined in the multiple-step communication model. Their role in the vertical process of democracy is neither denied or confirmed. The process of the spiral of silence is demonstrated on the blogs' content. The primary hypothesis is partially confirmed, with a reservation towards blogs' low capacity for reporting and their limited usability for general public. A brief essay about the perspectives of Iran's blogosphere and worldwide digital activism is added at the end of the thesis.